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ABSTRACT

A survey was conducted of 817 high school students in representative school districts in Maryland to: determine AIDS-related knowledge, beliefs and practices of high school students by grade, sex, age, and race; assess the perceived behavior of their peers and themselves; and assess the level of students interest in, and effectiveness of, AIDS education. Six school districts were selected, and a high school in each district volunteered to randomly survey a group of students. Analyses of the responses by demographic characteristics, gender, age and ethnicity are presented. Results include the following: (1) urban students' knowledge of HIV transmission modes lags behind the results from the total state; (2) most students are aware that they can get AIDS, but there is a high level of perceived competence to avoid getting the disease; (3) most students hesitated to be in the same classroom with an AIDS patient, although most did not think a person can get AIDS from going to school with an AIDS patient; (4) most students were familiar with preventive practices, but a small percentage are misinformed about prevention; (5) most say that most or almost all of their peers are having sexual intercourse, but less than a third said they thought most or almost all of their peers were using condoms; and (6) 93% wanted all the information about AIDS that they could get, and almost half said they had not studied AIDS in school. Results are discussed in terms of developing AIDS education programs. The questionnaire is appended. (KM)

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RESEARCH & EVALUATION REPORT

AIDS: A STATEWIDE SURVEY OF STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

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A paper presented at the annual meeting of
The American Educational Research Association

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MSDE

Maryland State Department of Education
Baltimore, Maryland
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AIDS: A STATEWIDE SURVEY OF STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES

I. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Since the first cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) were reported in the United States in 1981, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS and other HIV-related diseases has precipitated an epidemic unprecedented in modern history. In the seven year period that followed, more than 50,000 persons in the United States had been diagnosed as having AIDS and about 28,000 had died from the disease. A report issued in January of 1988 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Disease Control indicates that at present from 1 to 1.5 million persons in the United States are infected with HIV. The report estimates that during the year 1991, 74,000 cases of AIDS will be diagnosed and 54,000 persons will die from the disease. By the end of that year, the total number of deaths caused by AIDS will be about 179,000. In that year alone, health care and supportive services for the 145,000 persons projected to be afflicted with AIDS will cost our nation an estimated 8 to 10 billion dollars. Meanwhile the World Health Organization projects that by 1991, 50 to 100 million persons may be infected worldwide. **Because there is no cure and one may not be found within the next decade, these infected persons are potentially capable of infecting others indefinitely. At this time (and maybe for many years to come), educating individuals about actions they can take to protect themselves from becoming infected is the most effective means available for controlling the epidemic.)**

Preliminary observations throughout the United States have indicated that a significant number of teenagers engage in behavior that increases their risks of becoming infected with HIV. Reducing the risk of HIV infections among teenagers is important not only for their own well-being but also for the children they might produce. Because the virus is transmitted almost exclusively as a result of behavior which is modifiable, understanding the behavior and instituting educational programs that are designed to modify such behavior can be most effective in controlling the AIDS epidemic.

To initiate such an educational program nationwide, especially for the young, a number of national institutions, departments of education, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) have collaboratively launched studies and surveys to determine the extent of the teenage school population's knowledge of AIDS as well as their attitudes and behaviors with respect to the disease. Maryland was one of a dozen states that volunteered to collaborate with the CDC's initial surveys. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) selected a sample of representative school districts and requested volunteer high schools in these districts to participate in the survey. The survey was designed to do the following as reliably as possible:

1. Determine AIDS-related knowledge, beliefs and practices of high school students by grade, sex, age and race.

2. Assess students' perceived behavior of their peers (that could/should be modified), as well as their self-perceived behavior capability.

3. Assess the level of student interest in AIDS education and, if possible, estimate the effectiveness of school-based AIDS education programs and policies.

II. METHODOLOGY

Six representative school districts (from the total of twenty-four school districts in Maryland) participated in the survey. In each district a high school volunteered to randomly survey a group of students. While the sampling was not statistically designed and therefore the results of the survey could not be technically generalizable, the districts were highly representative of the Maryland population (two rural, two suburban and two urban fringe) and comparison with response patterns from other states gives our results these a high degree of reliability. The Maryland sample consisted of 817 students. Table 1 lists the demographic characteristics of these students. We should note here that the race/ethnicity percentages of the sample are very close to those of the total public school student population in the state. An initial draft questionnaire was pilot tested and revised a number of times for the final determination of the appropriateness of content, format, and

Table 1. **Demographic Characteristics of Students Samples from Maryland, and other States and Cities**

Site	Sample Size	Gender (%)		Age Group (%)			Race/Ethnicity (%)				
		Female	Male	13-14	15-16	17-18	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other
Maryland	817	53	47	33	42	23	65	26	2	5	2
Other[1] States	24,793	51	49	18	48	34	51	17	9	4	19[3]
Cities[2]	10,446	52	48	17	57	26	19	47	15	15	4[4]

(1) These were the other states: Calfifornia, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington

(2) Cities consisted of: Chicago, Los Angelos, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle

(3) The two states of New York and Washington did not provide Race/Ethnicity Information.

(4) New York City did not provide Race/Ethnicity information.

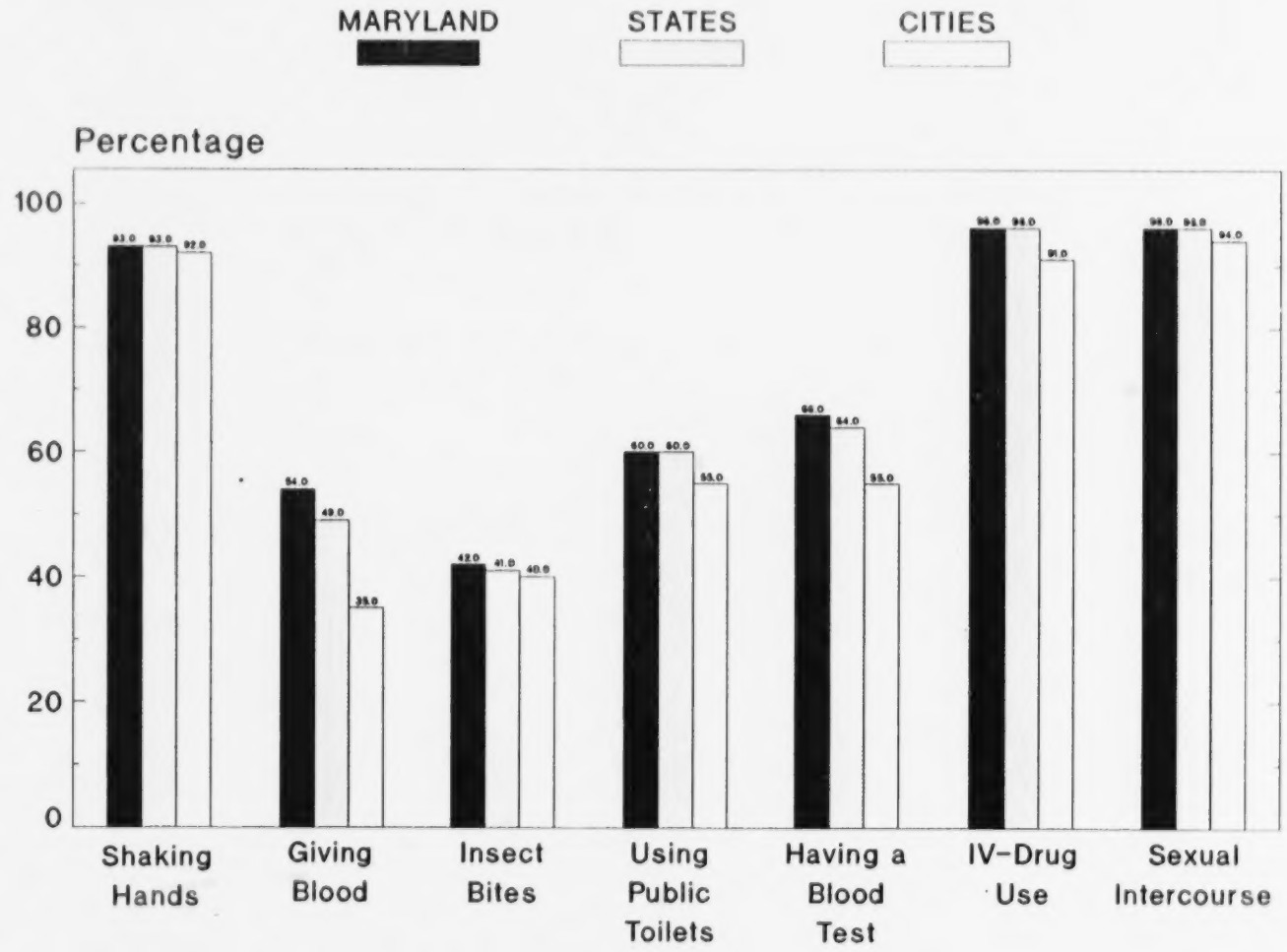
psychometric characteristics. The final questionnaire was developed collaboratively by CDC and department of education officials from twelve cities and twelve states. The version used by the Maryland State Department of Education (see Appendix A) was a new revision of the CDC questionnaire. Of a total of 40 questions, four were designed to obtain demographic information; 21 assessed students' knowledge and understanding of the disease and how it may or may not be transmitted; five contained inquiries about student's beliefs and attitudes; four probed their perception of the frequency of their peers' high risk behavior. Six questions asked about students' background and experience in AIDS education and whether they discussed the subject with their family. Thirty-seven of these 40 questions were taken with little or no modification from CDC's 49-question survey instrument. The remaining questions were concerned with students' educational experience. None of CDC's 12 questions about students' sexual behavior were included in this survey. During the administration of the survey, students were told about the importance of the information that the survey hoped to generate, but were also told that completing the survey was completely voluntary. They were asked not to write their names anywhere on the answer sheet and every effort was made to assure them of complete anonymity. Answer sheets were collected by MSDE officials and the data were processed at the MSDE's Office of Management Information Systems.

III. RESULTS

Data collected by MSDE were analyzed by the Research, Evaluation and Statistical Services Branch (RESSB). Responses to the 37 questions that were taken from the CDC questionnaire are tabulated in Table 2 by gender, age and ethnicity of the respondents. Chart 1 illustrates percentages of correct responses to seven questions that measure students' knowledge of HIV transmission modes. Maryland's results are compared with those from nine other states (California, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington) and six large cities (Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle). In all seven questions urban students' knowledge of HIV transmission lags behind the total states', a pattern similar to the achievement testing results. The astonishing closeness of Maryland's response patterns to those

CHART 1

Percentage of Correct Responses for Questions Measuring Knowledge of HIV Transmission, by Students in Maryland, and other States & Cities



of the other nine states' provides for a strong conviction of the reliability of the data. Responses to questions 5-40 are illustrated in charts 2 through 8 and also tabulated in Appendix B. The results of the survey are presented in relation to six major areas of concern:

A. AIDS-Related Beliefs and Attitudes

The question "Do you think you can get AIDS?" addresses perceived susceptibility and the likelihood that a student may take appropriate action to avoid the disease. As chart 2 shows, 67% of students said yes to this question with approximately the same percentages responding affirmatively in each of the sex, age and ethnicity categories (see Table 2). Self-efficacy is indicated by students' responses to such questions as "Can you avoid getting AIDS?" and "Can you protect yourself from becoming infected with the AIDS virus?" Both responses (see chart 2) show a high level of perceived competence to perform a desired behavior, with no discernible difference due to sex, age or ethnicity (Table 2).

While 53% of students agreed that a student with AIDS has a right to attend their school (60% female vs. 46% males), most students hesitated to be in the same classroom with an AIDS patient. Only 30% of students were willing to go to class with a student with AIDS (34% females, 24% males). See Chart 2 and Table 2.

B. Students' Knowledge of Modes of Transmission of HIV

While most students were reluctant to be in the same classroom with those inflicted with AIDS, 79% of them did not think a person can get AIDS from going to school with a student who has AIDS. Only 6% thought they would be infected (see Chart 3). A significantly larger number of female students (85% female vs. 73% males) thought that they could not be thus infected (see Table 2). 93% of students knew that HIV is not transmitted by shaking hands, as shown in Chart 3. These same students were not so sure about other modes of transmitting HIV infection. Only 54% said that one cannot become infected from giving blood (58% females and 49% of males). The percentage of nay sayers grew from 38% for 13-14 year-olds to 71% for 17-18 year-olds. A relatively small percentage (40%) said one cannot get AIDS from "kissing on the mouth" and 42% said the same about "being bitten by mosquitoes or other

TABLE 2 - Students Response Patterns by Gender, Age and Race/Ethnicity

Site: Maryland

Item	Overall Crude Rate	Gender		Age Group			Race/Ethnicity	
		Female	Male	13-14	15-16	17-18	White	Non-White
5. Should students your age be taught about AIDS in school? (% yes, n=812)	92.9	94.9	90.5	92.2	93.8	92.6	90.0	93.3
6. Should a student with AIDS have the right to go to your school? (% yes, n= 809)	53.4	60.1	46.2	54.3	52.4	51.3		
7. Would you be willing to go to class with a student with AIDS? (% yes, n=810)	29.5	34.4	24.0	31.7	26.8	30.2	27.5	29.6
8. Do you think you can get AIDS? (% yes, n=811)	67.1	67.9	66.1	63.4	69.0	71.6	70.0	66.9
9. Can you keep from getting AIDS? (% yes, n= 811)	87.1	87.0	87.1	86.7	86.7	87.4		
10. Do you know where to get correct information about AIDS? (% yes, n=810)	60.6	60.7	60.7	55.4	63.9	62.8	62.5	60.2
11. Do you know where to get tested for the AIDS virus? (% yes, n= 813)**	52.9	51.3	54.5	50.9	52.4	55.5		
12. How many persons your age do you think are having sexual intercourse? (% almost all, n=815)	22.7	21.7	24.0	12.3	25.8	28.8	*	23.9
13. How many persons your age do you think are using condoms? (% almost all, n=814)	11.7	9.7	14.0	16.2	10.7	7.9	17.5	11.2
14. How many persons your age do you think are injecting illegal drugs? (% almost all, n=814)	2.3	*	*	*	*	*	5.0	*
15. How many persons your age do you think are sharing needles or syringes used to inject drugs? (% almost all, n=813)	1.2	*	*	*	*	*	7.5	*
16. Can a person get AIDS from shaking hands with someone who has AIDS? (% no, n=810)	93.0	95.8	90.0	91.4	95.0	92.1	95.0	92.9
17. Can a person get AIDS from giving blood? (% no, n=811)	53.5	57.8	48.8	37.7	55.9	71.4	65.0	53.3

*less than 5% of sample ** data not available

Table 2 (continued)

Site: Maryland

Item	Overall Crude Rate	Gender		Age Group			Race/Ethnicity	
		Female	Male	13-14	15-16	17-18	White	Non-White
18. Can a person get AIDS from going to school with a student who has AIDS? (% no, n=812)	78.9	84.5	72.8	80.3	76.6	80.9	90.0	78.8
19. Can a person get AIDS from kissing on the mouth? (% no, n= 810)**	41.7	42.4	37.3	31.6	44.4	42.4		
20. Can a person get AIDS from being bitten by mosquitos or other insects? (% no, n=809)	41.7	41.7	41.7	38.7	42.7	44.9	35.9	42.2
21. Can a person get AIDS from sharing needles or syringes used to inject drugs? (% yes, n=815)	96.4	95.2	97.9	92.6	98.2	99.0	97.5	96.3
22. Can a person get AIDS from using public toilets? (% no, n=813)	60.0	63.9	55.8	53.4	62.0	66.3	77.5	59.2
23. Can a person get AIDS from having sexual intercourse? (% yes, n=816)	96.0	96.3	95.6	95.2	95.9	97.9	90.0	96.4
24. Can a person get AIDS from having a blood test? (% no, n=813)	65.9	66.4	65.5	59.0	65.6	76.8	77.5	65.5
25. You can protect yourself from becoming infected with the AIDS virus. (% true, n=813)	88.2	89.6	86.6	88.9	88.7	87.3	87.5	88.1
26. You can tell if a person is infected with the AIDS virus by looking at the person. (% false, n=808)	77.5	81.2	73.5	74.3	80.1	79.0	77.5	77.2
27. Any person infected with the AIDS virus can infect someone else during sexual intercourse? (% true, n=816)	94.6	96.1	93.2	94.1	95.9	93.7	92.5	94.7
28. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can infect her unborn baby with the virus. (% true, n=815)	88.7	90.5	86.9	87.4	89.0	91.6	82.5	89.2
29. There is a cure for AIDS. (% false, n=810)	88.6	90.9	86.3	85.8	90.5	88.4	82.5	89.0
30. Only gay men can get AIDS. (% false, n= 810)**	93.6	96.1	90.8	91.8	93.8	94.8		

*less than 5% of sample ** data not available

Table 2 (continued)

Site: Maryland

Item	Overall Crude Rate	Gender		Age Group			Race/Ethnicity	
		Female	Male	13-14	15-16	17-18	White	Non-White
31. With regard to AIDS, blood transfusions are now generally safe. (% true, n=808)	47.0	43.2	51.2	39.9	50.0	54.3	45.0	47.0
32. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by not having sexual intercourse (being abstinent)? (% yes, n=813)	82.2	83.1	81.1	75.0	87.8	87.4	82.5	82.3
33. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by using condoms (rubbers) during sexual intercourse? (% yes, n=812)	89.5	88.2	91.0	87.3	90.5	91.6	90.0	89.4
34. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by urinating after sexual intercourse? (% no, n=810)	64.4	69.8	58.6	57.7	67.5	69.0	80.0	63.3
35. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by having sexual intercourse only with one person not infected with the AIDS virus? (% yes, n=809)	75.4	75.1	75.7	61.8	79.9	90.5	67.5	75.8
36. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by not having sexual intercourse with a person who uses illegal drugs that can be injected? (% yes, n= 809)**	75.0	74.9	75.2	69.1	77.2	79.6		
37. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by taking birth control pills? (% no, n=809)	83.2	83.6	83.0	72.8	88.4	89.0	77.5	83.6

*less than 5% of sample ** data not available

CHART 2

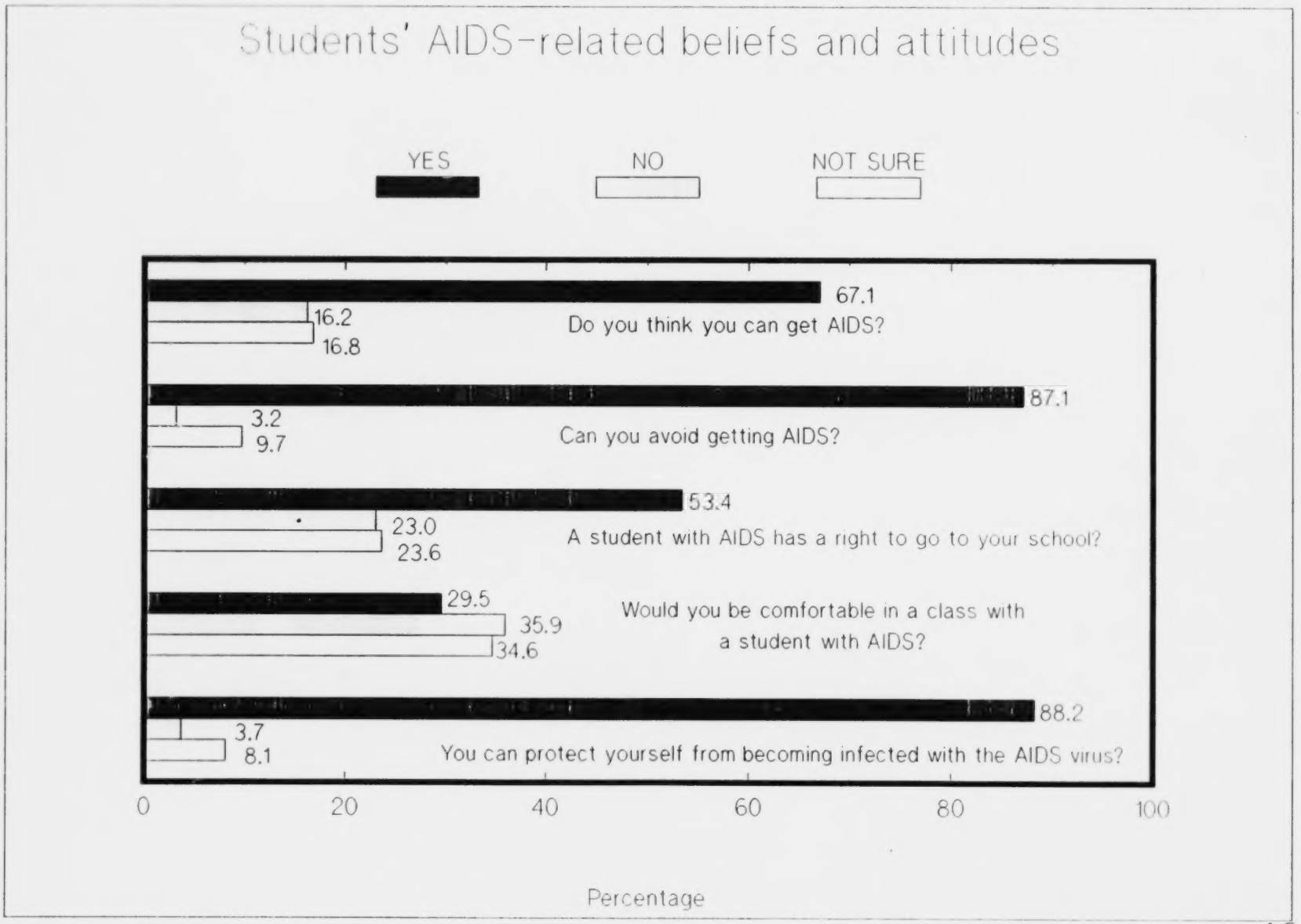

Students' AIDS-related beliefs and attitudes
YES
NO
NOT SURE
67.1
16.2
16.8
Do you think you can get AIDS?
87.1
3.2
9.7
Can you avoid getting AIDS?
53.4
23.0
23.6
A student with AIDS has a right to go to your school?
29.5
35.9
34.6
Would you be comfortable in a class with a student with AIDS?
88.2
3.7
8.1
You can protect yourself from becoming infected with the AIDS virus?
0
20
40
60
80
100
Percentage

CHART 3

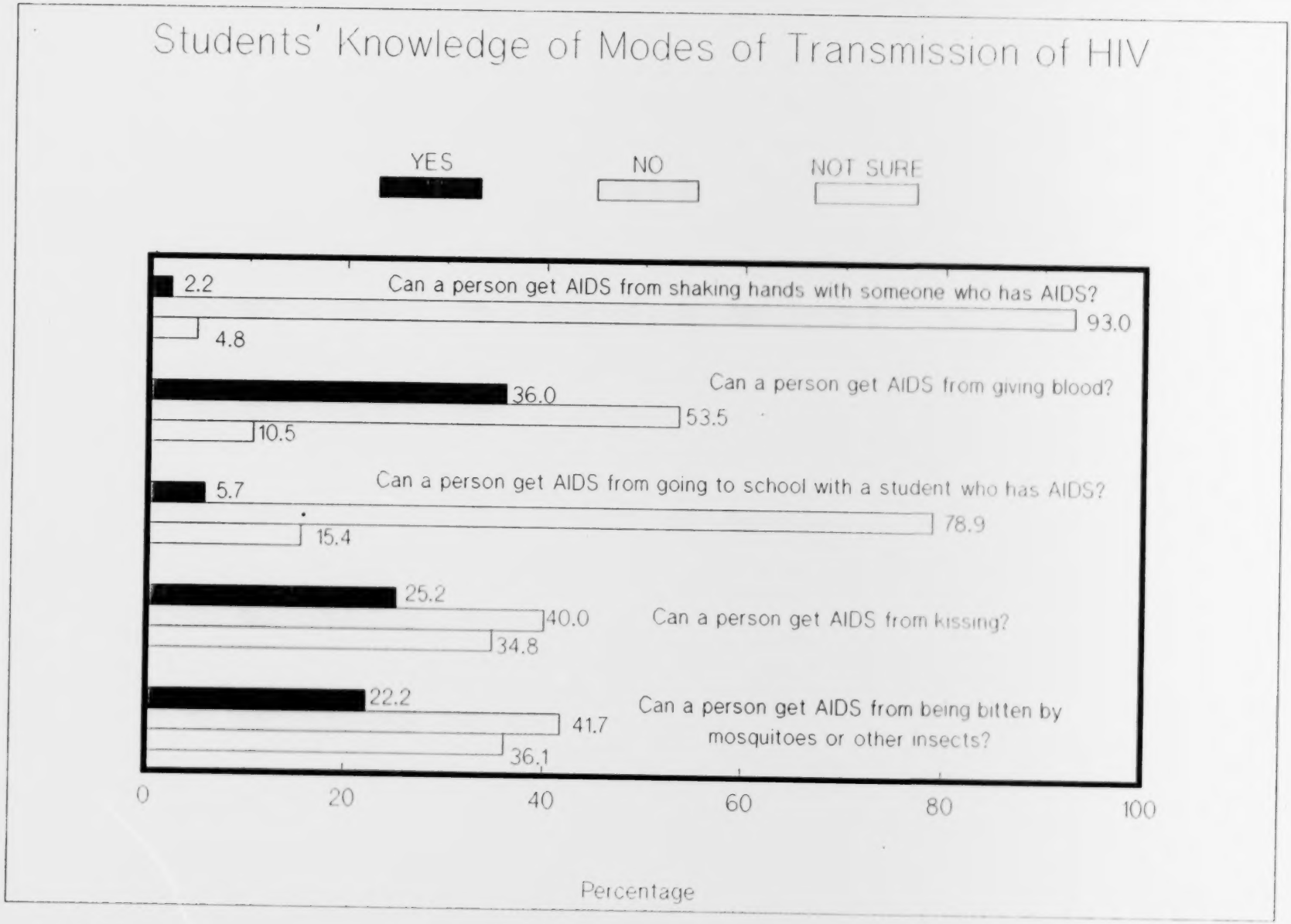
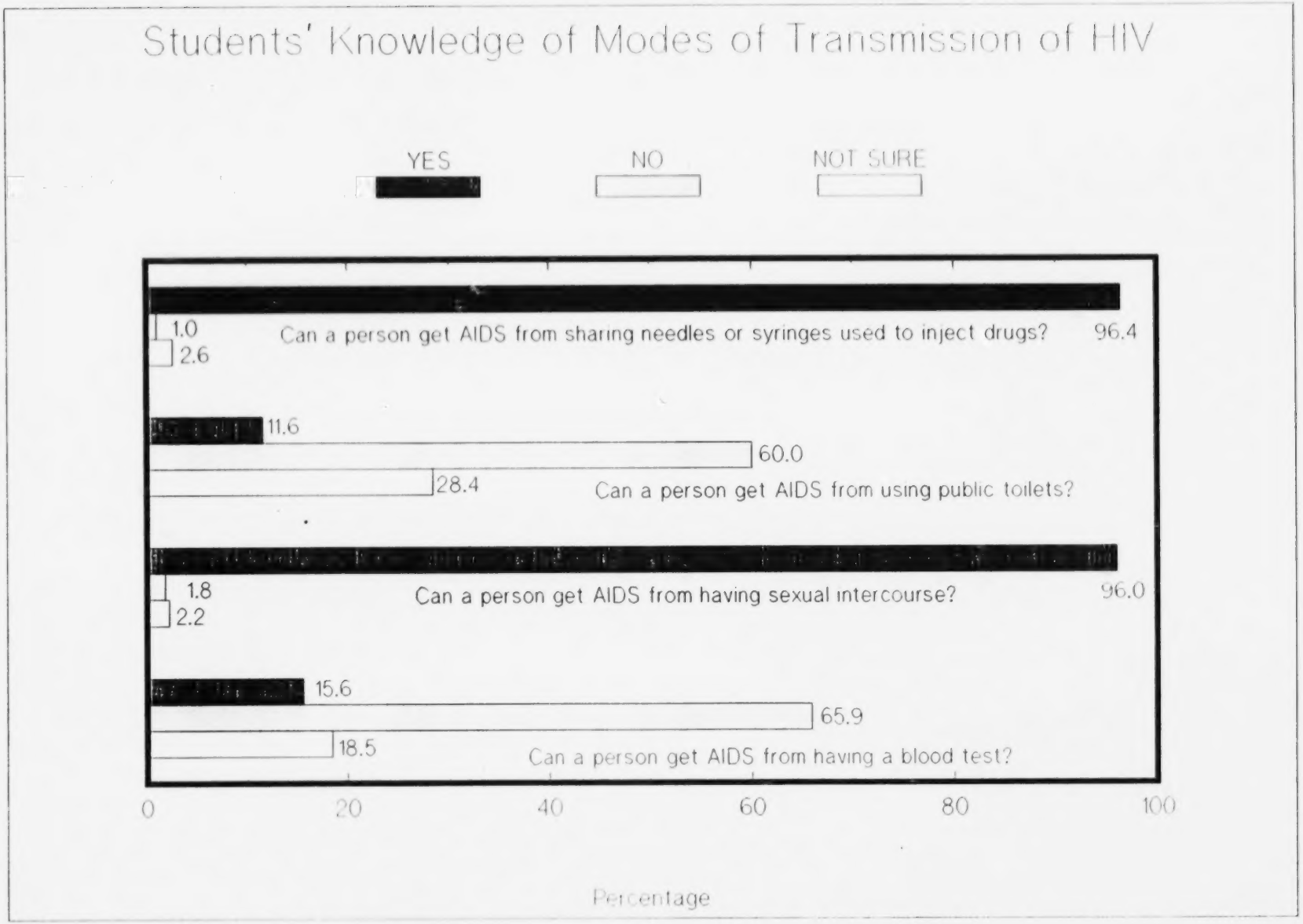

Students' Knowledge of Modes of Transmission of HIV
YES
NO
NOT SURE
2.2
Can a person get AIDS from shaking hands with someone who has AIDS?
93.0
4.8
36.0
Can a person get AIDS from giving blood?
53.5
10.5
5.7
Can a person get AIDS from going to school with a student who has AIDS?
78.9
15.4
25.2
40.0
Can a person get AIDS from kissing?
34.8
22.2
41.7
Can a person get AIDS from being bitten by mosquitoes or other insects?
36.1
0
20
40
60
80
100
Percentage

CHART 4


Students' Knowledge of Modes of Transmission of HIV
YES
NO
NOT SURE
1.0
2.6
Can a person get AIDS from sharing needles or syringes used to inject drugs?
96.4
11.6
60.0
28.4
Can a person get AIDS from using public toilets?
1.8
2.2
Can a person get AIDS from having sexual intercourse?
96.0
15.6
65.9
18.5
Can a person get AIDS from having a blood test?
0
20
40
60
80
100
Percentage

insects." 60% felt that a person cannot get AIDS from using public toilets or having a blood test (66%). However 96% of respondents were aware that sharing needles for drug injection could lead to HIV infection and 96% knew that having sexual intercourse increased their risk of getting AIDS.

C. Students Knowledge of Ways of Preventing AIDS Infection

Most students were familiar with preventive practices. When asked whether abstinence from sex could reduce chances of becoming infected with HIV, 82% of students said yes (see Chart 5). 90% of students believe using condoms is another way to reduce chances of AIDS infection. "Practicing a monogamous relationship" received the nod from 75%, as did "not having sex with a person who injects illegal drugs" from 75%. 83% of students felt that taking birth control pills does not reduce chances of becoming infected and 64% said the same about urinating after intercourse. We should note that the number of students who are misinformed and/or have accepted false information about AIDS is very important for the control and containment of the disease. For example, 54 of 810 students believed that "urinating after intercourse will help reduce chances of contracting the disease". If these students consistently hold to other false notions they may become highly at risk of contracting the disease, and 54 young people infected with AIDS are easily capable of bringing about an epidemic within only a few years.

D. Students' Knowledge of Current Facts About AIDS.

As illustrated in Chart 6, almost all (95%) of the students in this survey were aware of the fact that "any person infected with the AIDS virus can infect his/her partner during sexual intercourse". Almost as many (94%) knew that homosexual men are not the only people who get AIDS and that at this time there is no cure for AIDS (89%). They also knew (89% of them) that a pregnant woman who has AIDS can infect her unborn child. A majority of them, however, did not believe that blood transfusions are generally safe (only 47% felt they are) and better than 3/4 of them (78%) knew that you cannot tell by appearances if a person has AIDS. The observation that a relatively high percentage of these students are aware of some current facts about AIDS may mask the worrisome fact that 25 of 810 students think there is a cure for AIDS or that 55 students feel they "can tell if someone has AIDS". What is even more disturbing is the high risk behavior exhibited by many students.

CHART 5

Students' Knowledge of Modes of Preventing AIDS Infection

Can reduce chances of becoming infected with the HIV by ...

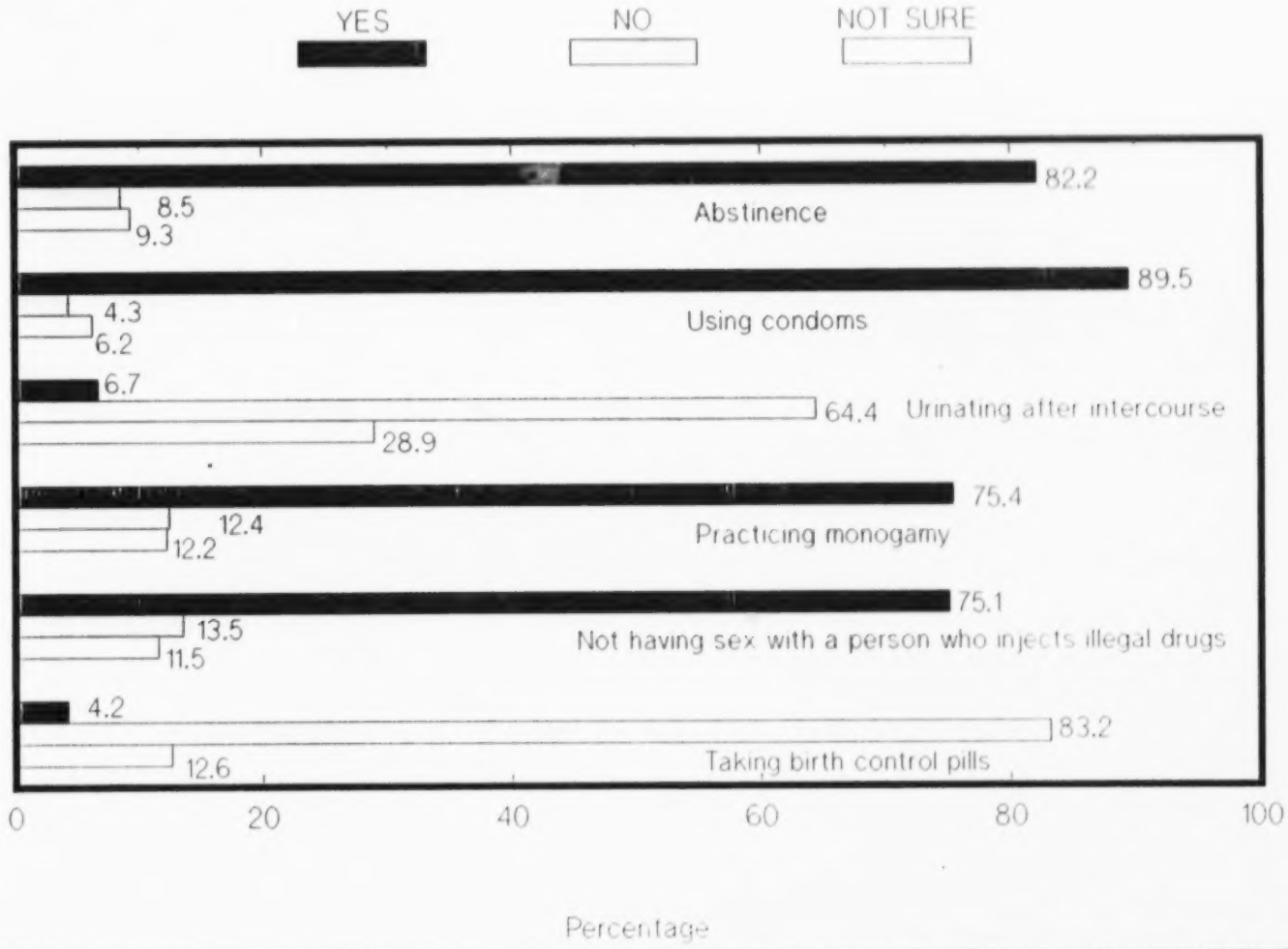
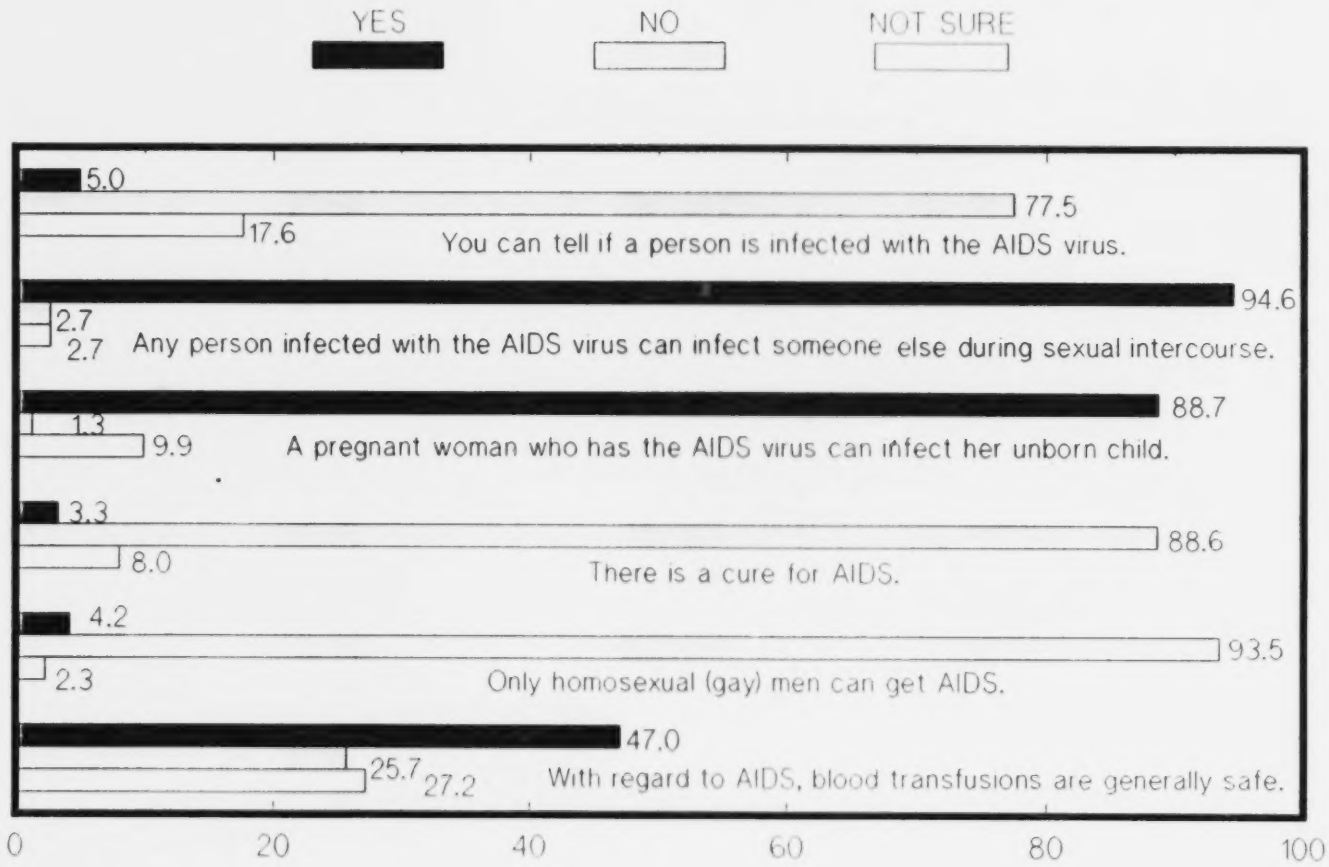


CHART 6

Students' Knowledge of Current Facts about AIDS



E. Perception of Peer High Risk Behavior

A majority of students (53%) say that most or almost all of their peers are having sexual intercourse. (see Chart 7 and Table 2). As expected, the percentage of those in the age group 17-18 who said "almost all my peers are having sexual intercourse" is more than twice the percentage of 13-14 year-olds who said the same (29% vs 12%) but even at that the number of 13-14 year olds perceived by their peers as having sex is surprisingly large. Less than 1/3 of students (32%) said they thought most or almost all their peers "are using condoms". Slightly less than ten percent (9.2%) said they thought most or almost all their peers were injecting illegal drugs and only 5% said they thought most or almost all their peers were sharing needles to inject drugs.

F. Students' Attitude and Experience of AIDS-Education

Chart 8 shows that only 15 students did not want to be taught about AIDS in school. 93% wanted all the information they could get. Many explained this desire for AIDS-education by stating that they did not "know" where to get correct information about AIDS" (only 61% knew where). Almost half of these students said they had not studied AIDS in school (49%) and only 45% stated that what they studied about AIDS answered their questions. Slightly more then half of these students (54%) had discussed AIDS with their families.

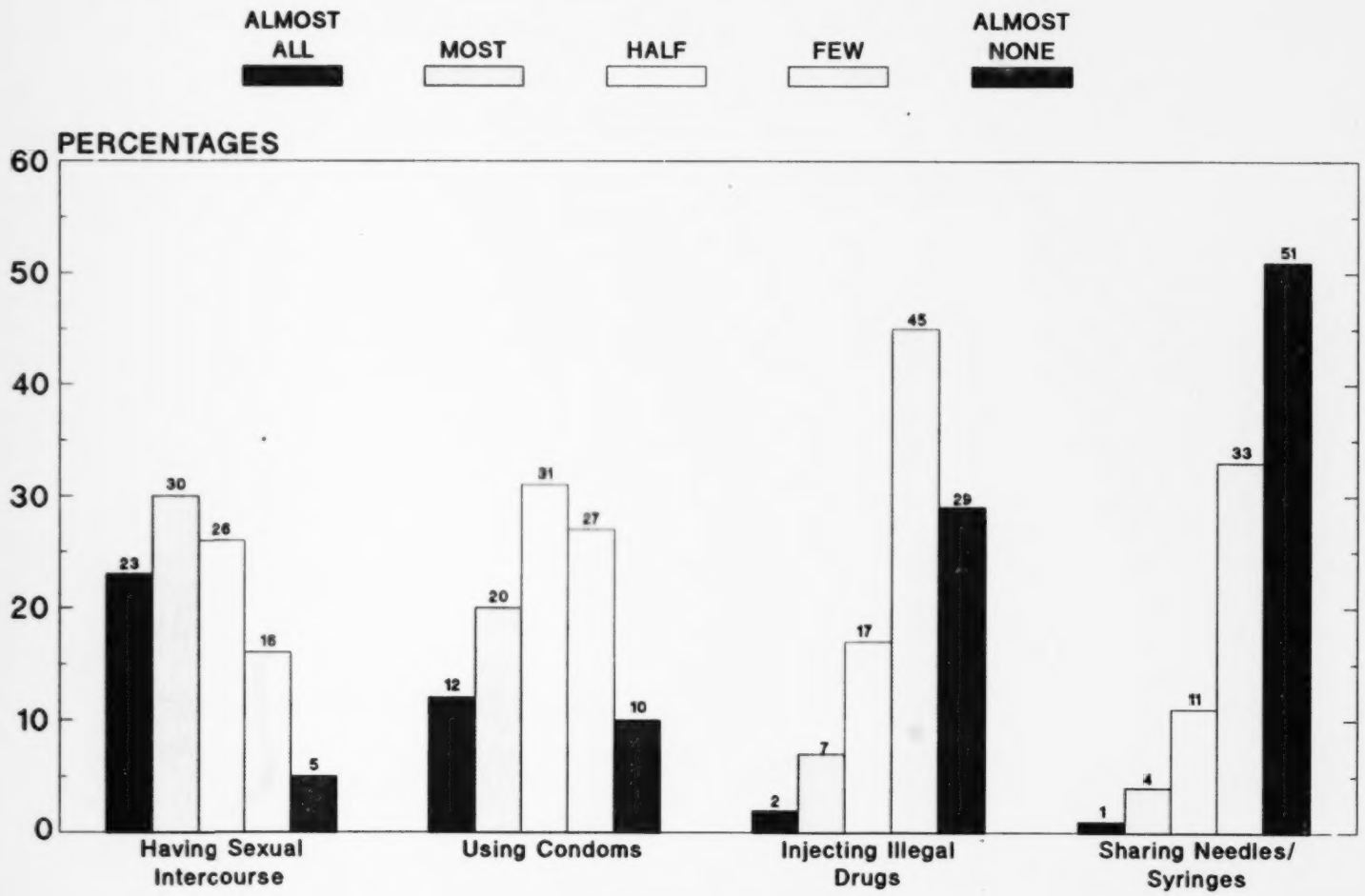
IV. Conclusions

The discussion of the results of the survey was so arranged as to naturally lead us from students' beliefs about AIDS to the state of their knowledge of this dreaded disease and eventually to their need as well as their desire to be educated about it. The survey clearly shows that a majority of students had a realistic perception of their susceptibility to the disease. However, a significant proportion of these students lacked adequate knowledge (as measured by the percentage of correct responses to a specific set of questions) of HIV transmission and how to successfully avoid AIDS infection. Their level of knowledge does not significantly vary by either sex or race. There appears, however, a gradual increase of knowledge, specifically in the area of sex education, from the age of 13 to 18.

Chart 7

PERCEPTION OF PEER HIGH RISK BEHAVIOR

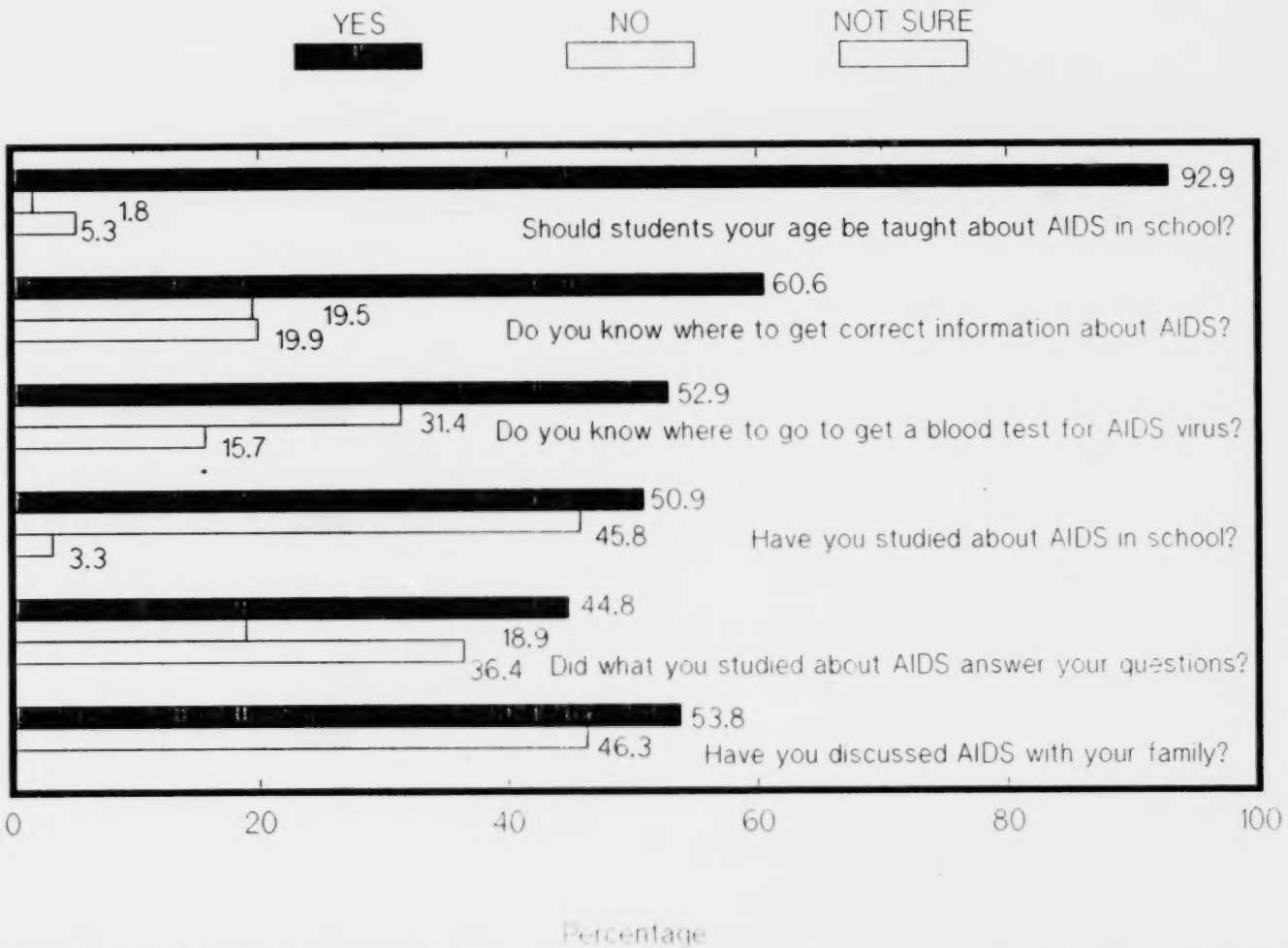
How many persons your age do you think are . . .



Student Responses

CHART 8

Students' Attitudes and Experience of AIDS-education



Most of the students surveyed indicated both an awareness of the inadequacy of the information they had about AIDS and desire for obtaining it. Although this is obviously a healthy foundation on which to build an effective AIDS education program, a word of caution may be appropriate here. While knowledge of modes of HIV transmission and methods of preventing AIDS infection is very important, most research in this and related subjects indicates that knowledge alone does not modify or change adolescent behavior significantly. Studies on the effect of sex education show little correlation between girls' scores on tests of factual knowledge about sex and their practice of birth control or avoidance of pregnancy. A functional objective of an educational program must be the development of attitudes and behaviors in students that would almost eliminate their chances of becoming infected with AIDS. At the moment there is scant knowledge about effective modification of adolescent behavior and attitudes. We know, however, that a broadly based educational program that is integrated into a variety of practical situations is more likely to change sexual behavior than formal and/or brief lecture-based instruction.

Experience with sex education also suggests that parental involvement in the AIDS curriculum will increase its effectiveness. Evidently students whose parents are concerned about AIDS or are communicative in general will be more open to AIDS education than students whose parents are unconcerned and uncommunicative.

The development of an effective AIDS education program is the most important challenge of our time. The task of educating the nation's youth as a means of controlling this epidemic is a massive and complex endeavor. It is further complicated by the urgency of the need for action, the unavailability of guidelines, and the limitations of our pedagogical knowledge of how to modify sexual behavior. We need to act cautiously and yet speedily. We must explore, use initiative and originality, and yet we do not dare to be on the wrong track.

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FUNDED STATES AND CITIES
SURVEILLANCE INSTRUMENT
ON
AIDS PREVENTION EDUCATION

SPRING, 1988

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Distributed by the Maryland State Department of Education as part of a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control

AIDS is a very serious health problem in our nation. Health officials are trying to find the best ways to teach people about AIDS. This survey has been developed so you can tell us what you know and how you feel about AIDS. The information you give will be used to develop better AIDS education programs for young people like yourself.

DO NOT write your name on this survey or the answer sheet. The answers you give will be kept private. No one will know what you write. Answer the questions based on what you really know, feel, or do.

Completing the survey is voluntary. Whether or not you answer the questions will not affect your grade in this class.

Questions 1-4 will be used only to describe the types of students completing this survey. The information will not be used to find out your name. No names will ever be reported.

Place all your answers on the answer sheet. Fill in the circles completely. Make sure to answer every question.

Thank you for your help.

DIRECTIONS: Read each question carefully. Fill in the circle on your answer sheet that matches the letter of your answer.

1. What grade are you in?

   a. 8th b. 9th c. 10th d. 11th e. 12th

2. What is your sex?

   a. FEMALE b. MALE

3. How old are you?

   a. 12 YEARS OLD OR LESS
   b. 13-14
   c. 15-16
   d. 17-18
   e. 19 YEARS OLD OR MORE

4. What is your race?

   a. ASIAN b. BLACK c. HISPANIC d. WHITE e. OTHER

5. Should students your age be taught about AIDS in school?

   a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

6. Do you think you can get AIDS?

   a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

7. Can you avoid getting AIDS?

   a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

8. Do you know where to get correct information about AIDS?

   a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

9. Do you know where to go to get a blood test for the AIDS virus?

   a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

10. Do you agree that a student with AIDS has the right to go to your school?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

11. Would you be comfortable in a class with a student with AIDS?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

12. How many persons your age do you think are having sexual intercourse?

    a. ALMOST ALL b. MOST c. HALF d. FEW e. ALMOST NONE

13. How many persons your age do you think are using condoms (rubbers) during sexual intercourse?

    a. ALMOST ALL b. MOST c. HALF d. FEW e. ALMOST NONE

14. How many persons your age do you think are injecting illegal drugs?

    a. ALMOST ALL b. MOST c. HALF d. FEW e. ALMOST NONE

15. How many persons your age do you think are sharing needles or syringes used to inject drugs?

    a. ALMOST ALL b. MOST c. HALF d. FEW e. ALMOST NONE

16. Can a person get AIDS from shaking hands with someone who has AIDS?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

17. Can a person get AIDS from giving blood?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

18. Can a person get AIDS from going to school with a student who has AIDS?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

19. Can a person get AIDS from kissing?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

20. Can a person get AIDS from being bitten by mosquitoes or other insects?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

21. Can a person get AIDS from sharing needles or syringes used to inject drugs?

a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

22. Can a person get AIDS from using public toilets?

a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

23. Can a person get AIDS from having sexual intercourse?

a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

24. Can a person get AIDS from having a blood test?

a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

25. You can protect yourself from becoming infected with the AIDS virus.

a. TRUE b. FALSE c. NOT SURE

26. You can tell if a person is infected with the AIDS virus by looking at the person.

a. TRUE b. FALSE c. NOT SURE

27. Any person infected with the AIDS virus can infect someone else during sexual intercourse.

a. TRUE b. FALSE c. NOT SURE

28. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can infect her unborn baby with the virus.

a. TRUE b. FALSE c. NOT SURE

29. There is a cure for AIDS.

a. TRUE b. FALSE c. NOT SURE

30. Only homosexual (gay) men can get AIDS.

a. TRUE b. FALSE c. NOT SURE

31. With regard to AIDS, blood transfusions are now generally safe.

a. TRUE b. FALSE c. NOT SURE

32. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by not having sexual intercourse (being abstinent)?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

33. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by using condoms (rubbers) during sexual intercourse?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

34. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by urinating after sexual intercourse?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

35. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by having sexual intercourse with only one person not infected with the AIDS virus?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

36. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by not having sexual intercourse with a person who injects illegal drugs?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

37. Can people reduce their chances of becoming infected with the AIDS virus by taking birth control pills?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

38. Have you studied about AIDS in school?

    a. YES b. NO c. NOT SURE

39. Did what you studied about AIDS answer your questions?

    a. YES b. NO c. DOES NOT APPLY

40. Have you discussed the topic of AIDS with members of your family?

    a. YES b. NO

Thank you for your help. Please return this survey and your answer sheet to your teacher.